

2/16/21

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RESOLUTION NO. 31-21

BY: **KRISTIN L. SABAN**, MARK CASSELBERRY, VITO DIPIERRO,
ALLAN DIVIS, ROY J. JECH, LINDA KOHAR, DEBORAH LIME,
LARRY NAPOLI, KAMMY SHUMAN

A RESOLUTION URGING GOVERNOR DEWINE TO
INCLUDE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS TO THE
LATEST LIST OF FRONTLINE WORKERS GIVEN THE
COVID-19 VACCINE, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, Ohio's law enforcement officers and members of the Parma Police Department provide an essential service to the City of Parma in keeping our community safe; and

WHEREAS, police officers should qualify as medical first responders as they are typically the first on scene of an accident, disaster or violent incident and begin administering first aid long before emergency medical personnel arrive; and

WHEREAS, responding to domestic violence or drug overdose incidents could potentially put officers inside private homes in close contact with residents who might not be taking health precautions; and

WHEREAS, wrestling to control a violent suspect carries obvious risks; transporting suspects in a closed squad car means breathing the same air; jail duty involves similar risks of infection and transmission; and

WHEREAS, when officers contract COVID-19, the resulting hospitalization or quarantine removes them from duty, reducing the staffing and effectiveness of their law enforcement agency; and

WHEREAS, according to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund, police officers dying in the line of duty increased 96% in 2020; many of these fallen officers were reported in the "other" causes category which includes COVID-19, which is up 300% over 2019; and

WHEREAS, police officers already put their lives on the line for us everyday so we should seize any opportunity to reduce the deadly threats they face; putting them on the priority list for COVID-19 vaccinations does this.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PARMA, STATE OF OHIO:

Section 1. That this Council hereby encourages Governor DeWine to include law enforcement officers to the latest list of frontline workers to receive the COVID-19 vaccination to protect the health and safety of the community.

Section 2. That the Clerk of Council is hereby directed to forward a true and accurate copy of this Resolution to Governor Mike DeWine and Parma Police Chief Joseph Bobak.

Section 3. That it is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to the adoption of this Resolution were adopted in an open meeting of this Council; and that all deliberations of the Council and any of its committees that resulted in such formal action were in meetings open to the public in compliance with all legal requirements.

Section 4. That this Resolution is hereby declared to be an emergency measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health, safety and welfare of the City of Parma, and for the further reason that this measure is necessary in order to urge Ohio Governor Mike Dewine to include law enforcement officers to the latest list of frontline workers to receive the COVID-19 vaccine, and this Resolution shall become immediately effective upon receiving the affirmative vote of two-thirds of all members elected to Council and approval of the Mayor, otherwise from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

PASSED: _____
PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

ATTEST: _____ APPROVED: _____
CLERK OF COUNCIL

FILED WITH
THE MAYOR: _____
MAYOR, CITY OF PARMA, OHIO